

**Skagit County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Committee
(CFAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

Members in attendance:

Carolyn Kelly, Chair
Andrea Xaver
Keith Wiggers

Dave Hedlin
Alan Merritt

Members not in Attendance

Scott DeGraw, Mike Hulbert

Staff in Attendance:

Kendra Smith, Skagit County
Linda Christensen, Skagit County
Gary Christensen, Skagit County Planning

Open

The meeting was called to order 7:10 a.m.

Member Update:

Kendra Smith suggested that another member replace Ralph Heft as an alternate for Keith Wiggers from the Skagit Land Trust. It was noted that alternates are non-voting positions. Keith noted that Michael Kirshenbaum's name should be added to the CFAC distribution list.

Dave Hedlin gave kudos to County staff, The Nature Conservancy, and Skagitonians for a job well done on the Wylie property acquisition.

Gary Christensen reported that the Citizen Committee for the Envision Skagit 2060 project has been appointed. This diverse group is well represented within Skagit County which includes four members from the agriculture community. Additionally, this project is hosting a presentation by Dr. Robert Lang who will talk about the Cascadia Corridor at the Lincoln Theatre, Wednesday, October 27th. In other news Gary mentioned the Capital Facility Plan is complete for the 2010-2015 time periods. Staff has attended public meetings and hearings regarding the Guemes Island Subarea Plan, and the Planning Commission is currently reviewing the Plan. The Board of County Commissioners will review by the end of 2010. County staff is currently attending meetings regarding the 2011 budget.

Carolyn Kelly reported that the Ruckelhaus process and report to the legislature is nearly complete and will need a final buy-off in the current legislative session. She noted that the final document/ruling will take funding commitments from local agencies for implementation.

Kendra Smith reported on the 2010 Land Conservation Rally she attended last week in Connecticut. She learned that the County cannot receive accreditation. Other points of interest were the monitoring classes and information regarding funding may be less available nationwide now that more local government agencies and non-governmental organizations are applying for federal grants. Kendra also noted that leased farms are becoming a normal practice on the east coast and the trend is moving westward.

Meeting Minutes Approval for September 14, 2010

There was a motion by Keith Wiggers and seconded by Dave Hedlin to approve the September 14, 2010 meeting minutes. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Financial Update

Kendra Smith noted her travel back east depleted the travel budget line items and the Wylie payout will have impact.

Carolyn Kelly reported that the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funding under the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) state funds are tight and a campaign is underway to network with the Governor's office for support. She also noted the e-mail sent to all committee members recently regarding the new RCO policy & procedure proposal to notify conservation districts of funding applications for projects that would convert agricultural land; comments are encouraged by November 3rd.

Kendra mentioned that new USDA rules may not require a yellow book appraisal which would make us less competitive, as we have previously received ranking points under that category.

Dave Hedlin listed out various seed company names that may have grant or foundation funding available. He suggested staff contact the following companies: Sakata Seed Company (Christiansen Seed); Seminis Seed Company (Monsanto); Syngenta Seed Company; and Vikimausa.

Old Business

Strategic Planning

Kendra Smith reported that she has received a few responses to the RFQ. The CFAC determined that Andrea Xaver would represent the CFAC on the RFQ review panel.

Status of Prior Applications

Kendra Smith reported that she is holding five applications and may not be able to process these until 2012 when there is additional funding.

There was no executive session

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: 
Linda Christensen

Approved by the CFAC Board on October 12, 2010

Chair Carolyn Kelly